

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY D/LOS:TSCULLY:MZ

APPROVED BY D/LOS - TUCKER SCULLY

L/OES - MR. OXMAN

ARA/LA/NC - MR. COX

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 196536

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: POSSIBLE COLOMBIA ESTABLISHMENT OF A

- 200-MILE RESOURCE CONSERVATION ZONE

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REF: (A) BOGOTA 7699; (B) BOGOTA 7720

1. INDICATIONS THAT COLOMBIA MAY MOVE TO ESTABLISH A 200-MILE RESOURCE CONSERVATION ZONE MERIT STRONG HIGH LEVEL DEMARCHE WITH GOC TO REGISTER OUR OPPOSITION TO SUCH UNILATERAL MEASURES. UNILATERAL ACTIONS, AS GOC APPARENTLY CONTEMPLATES, EVEN IF INTERIM IN NATURE, WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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TIVE IMPACT UPON PROSPECTS FOR TIMELY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF LOS NEGOTIATIONS. PURPOSE OF OUR APPROACH TO GOC WOULD BE TO REINFORCE POINTS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS MONTREAL SPEECH ON UNILATERAL ACTION AND,

TO THE EXTENT WE CAN, TO STRENGTHEN GOC RESISTANCE TO 200 MILE BLANDISHMENTS PRIOR TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S VISIT TO ECUADOR.

2. ACCORDINGLY, AMB SHOULD ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO OR HIGHEST AVAILABLE MINISTRY OFFICIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CONVEY TO HIM OUR STRONG OPPOSITION TO UNILATERAL EXTENSIONS OF JURISDICTION, RESOURCE OR OTHERWISEWISE. FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE MADE:

(A) THE U.S. AND COLOMBIA HAVE SHARED THE BELIEF THAT RATIONAL USE OF THE OCEANS AND OF OCEAN RESOURCES CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED THROUGH BROAD INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IN THE LOS CONFERENCE.

(B) THOUGH THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN PROTRACTED, THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT WHICH EMERGED FROM THE GENEVA SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE, EXCEPT FOR THAT PORTION DEALING WITH THE DEEP SEABED, REPRESENTS REAL PROGRESS AND OFFERS A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATING NECESSARY COMPROMISES.

(C) UNIALTERAL ACTION TO EXTEND JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES AT THIS TIME, EVEN IF IN THE FORM OF LIMITED RE-SOURCE JURISDICTION AND INTERIM IN CHARACTER, COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A CHAIN REACTION OF UNILATERAL MEASURES, MANY OF WHICH WOULD NOT BE SO LIMITED, AND WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ASSERTIONS OF FULL SOVEREIGNTY. UNILATERAL MEASURES COULD UNDERMINE LOS CONFERENCE WHICH OFFERS BEST MEANS OF RESOLVING DIFFERENCES IN HEMISPHERE AND WORLDWIDE ON COASTAL STATE RIGHTS AND DUTIES IN 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.

(D) AGREEMENT IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS ON 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, COUPLED WITH EFFECTIVE SYSTEM FOR COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT -- AN AREA IN WHICH COLOMBIA HAS MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS -- WOULD PROVIDE SOUND AND OBJECTIVE BASIS FOR COASTAL STATES TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS.

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(E) THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED ABOUT CONSERVING THE FISHERY STOCKS OFF ITS COASTS AND WE OURSELVES FACE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE TO EXTEND JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES. IT IS U.S. POLICY, HOWEVER, AS SECRETARY KISSINGER STATED, TO OPPOSE UNILATERAL ACTION AND SEEK INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS. THEREFORE WE WOULD URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF COLUMBIA NOT TO UNDERTAKE UNILATERAL MEASURES WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOSS OF THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON OCEAN USES AND TO JOIN WITH US IN EFFORT TO BRING THE LOS CONFERENCE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

KISSINGER

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